Division of Parks & Recreation to offer free admission to State Parks and the Brandywine Zoo on Black Friday

DOVER — DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation, and Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), invite the public to #OptOutside this Black Friday by visiting <u>Delaware State Parks</u>. This year, visitors can enjoy free entry to state parks on Black Friday, Nov. 23. The Brandywine Zoo is joining in on the outdoor fun and will also be waiving admission all day.

Pick a Park and #0ptOutside

- Alapocas Run State Park
- Auburn Valley State Park
- Bellevue State Park
- Brandywine Creek State Park
- Brandywine Zoo
- <u>Cape Henlopen State Park</u>
- Delaware Seashore State Park

- Fenwick Island State Park
- First State Heritage Park
- Fort DuPont State Park
- Fort Miles Historical Area
- Fox Point State Park
- Holts Landing State Park
- Indian River Life-Saving Station
- Killens Pond State Park
- Lums Pond State Park
- Port Penn Interpretive Center
- Trap Pond State Park
- White Clay Creek State Park
- Wilmington State Parks

"The 'Opt Outside' event is now a tradition at DNREC's Delaware state parks, and the numbers of visitors are increasing each year," said DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin. "Between the Brandywine Zoo and our parks across the state, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Those willing to forego shopping and opt instead for a day of hiking, biking, and adventuring will find more than 150 miles of trails to explore throughout Delaware, spectacular locations for bird and wildlife watching, scenic beaches, and much more."

The Opt Outside movement, started by REI in 2015, encourages families and friends across the nation to ditch the retail madness and get outdoors on Black Friday. The 16 million-member outdoor co-op sets an example by shutting its doors, and giving its 12,000 employees a paid day off.

This is the fourth year that DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation will be participating in the event, joining more than 700 organizations and seven million people nationwide.

All Delaware state parks' gates will open at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 23, with the exception of Fort Delaware State Park, which is closed for the season. The <u>Brandywine Zoo</u> will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public can use the hashtag #0ptOutside on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to show support and invite family and friends to join the movement.

Visit <u>destateparks.com</u> for park locations and more fun ideas on how to get outside on Black Friday.

Media Contact: Beth Shockley, DNREC Public Affairs, 302-739-9902